

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 L-03 EB-11 COME-00

ACDA-19 AGR-20 MC-02 IGA-02 AID-20 OMB-01 OPIC-12

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4336
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 5777

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, CO, VE

SUBJECT: EVENHANDEDNESS POLICY IN SECURITY ASSISTANCE

REF: STATE 126803

1. WE REAFFIRM OUR PREVIOUSLY-EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT OUR
POLICY OF EVENHANDEDNESS TOWARD COLOMBIA AND VENEZUELA
WITH REGARD TO FMS CREDITS, VESSEL TRANSFERS, ETC.
IS SOUNDLY-BASED AND SHOULD BE CONTINUED DURING THE
FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

2. HOWEVER, VENEZUELA IS NOW A RICH COUNTRY WITH
AMPLE MEANS TO PURCHASE THE MILITARY EQUIPMENT IT
FEELS IT REQUIRES. WE STRONGLY BELIEVE IT IS IN THE
U.S. NATIONAL INTEREST, FOR A WHOLE VARIETY OF IMPORTANT
REASONS, FOR THE USG TO ENCOURAGE VENEZUELA
TO CONTINUE TO LOOK TO THE US AS THE PRINCIPAL SOURCE FOR THE
SUPPLY AND RESUPPLY OF ITS MILITARY EQUIPMENT THROUGH BOTH FMS
CASH AND COMMERCIAL SALES.

3. ANY DECISION TO ABANDON EVENHANDEDNESS AS TO FMS CREDITS,
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VESSEL TRANSFERS, ETC. WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT THE CLIMATE

OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND VENEZUELA AND WOULD UNQUESTIONABLY
ENCOURAGE VENEZUELA TO MAKE ITS COMMERCIAL ARMS PURCHASES
ELSEWHERE THAN FROM THE US. THIS COULD ONLY PRODUCE A DETRI-
MENTAL EFFECT UPON ANY MILITARY EQUILIBRIUM MAINTAINED BETWEEN
COLOMBIA AND VENEZUELA AND ALSO UPON THE US BALANCE OF PAYMENTS.
MCCLINTOCK

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